

Applic. No. 10/673,743
Amdt. dated August 28, 2006
Reply to Office action of April 10, 2006

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Remarks/Arguments:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1 and 3-20 remain in the application. Claims 1 and 3 have been amended. Claim 2 is being cancelled herewith.

In the second paragraph on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, claims 1-20 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by Eggert et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,527,558) (hereinafter "Eggert") under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

As will be explained below, it is believed that the claims were patentable over the cited art in their original form and as a whole, the claims have, therefore, not been amended to overcome the references. However, in order to facilitate prosecution of the application, claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 2. It is noted that independent claims 10 and 15 have not been amended.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claims 1 and 15 call for, *inter alia*:

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electronically simulating a medical examination on the patient, where simulating the medical examination includes providing dynamic internal views and external views of organs and systems associated with the medical condition.

Furthermore, the dynamic internal view of the organs is discussed in paragraph [0073] of the specification of the instant application. There it is disclosed that the system can launch animations to allow the student to view the internal portions of the body at any time during the exercise. E.g., view internal view of chest to visualize the pneumonia process. First, the lung tissue could be visualized with the infected tissue becoming discolored with infection. Then a dynamic visual schematic of pulmonary function would illustrate how the diseased portion of the lung causes a decrease in the oxygen content of the blood. When the student chooses to apply oxygen as a treatment, the student can also click onto an internal animation of the physiological effect of that oxygen with both the lung tissue and the bloodstream itself. Finally, the student can launch an animation of the antibiotic, seeing the antibiotic travel into the bloodstream and then trace it down to the cellular and molecular level to understand its mechanism of action in fighting the infection.

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The Eggert reference discloses an interactive education system for teaching patient care to a user. The system includes a patient simulator, as well as a virtual instrument for use with the patient simulator in performing patient care activities. The systems also includes means for sensing an interaction between the virtual instrument and the simulator, and means for providing feedback to the user regarding the interaction between the virtual instrument and the simulator (column 1, line 63 to column 2, line 3).

On page 2 of the Office action the Examiner alleges that Eggert discloses "providing dynamic internal views of organs and systems associated with the medical conditions" and refers to column 2, line 55 to column 3, line 5. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's allegation. More specifically, Eggert discloses in column 3, lines 3-5 that the system (10) provides feedback to the user, where the feedback includes any audio, visual, or tactile response. As seen from the above-given comments, Eggert discloses that the feedback pertains to the user with regard to the interaction between the virtual instrument and the simulator. Eggert discloses that the a communications interface module (16) has a plurality of ports, collectively (28) for receiving input signals occasioned by interaction between the virtual instruments (12) and sensors (30) disposed on the simulator

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(14) resulting from the patient care activity. The interaction between the instruments (12) and the sensors may be electrical, optical, pressure differential, tactile... (column 3, lines 39-45) For example, Eggert discloses that correct placement of an ET tube (12b) in the trachea is confirmed when the tip of the ET tube (12b) interrupts the beam of the optical sensor (30b) (column 4, lines 29-35). Accordingly, Eggert discloses that the feedback is the affirmation of the correct placement of the ET tube (12b). Eggert does not disclose that feedback includes dynamic views of internal organs. Eggert is silent with respect to dynamic views of internal organs. Therefore, it is respectfully believed that the Examiner's allegation pertaining to dynamic internal views of organs is not accurate.

The reference does not show electronically simulating a medical examination on the patient, where simulating the medical examination includes providing dynamic internal views and external views of organs and systems associated with the medical condition, as recited in claims 1 and 15 of the instant application. The Eggert reference discloses a system for sensing an interaction between the virtual instrument and the simulator, and means for providing feedback to the user regarding the interaction between the virtual instrument and the simulator. Eggert does not disclose providing dynamic

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internal views of organs. This is contrary to the invention of the instant application as claimed, which recites electronically simulating a medical examination on the patient, where simulating the medical examination includes providing dynamic internal views and external views of organs and systems associated with the medical condition.

Since claims 1 and 15 are believed to be allowable over Eggert, dependent claims 2-9 and 16-20 are believed to be allowable over Eggert as well.

The following remarks pertain to claim 10 of the instant application.

Claim 10 calls for, *inter alia*:

an instructional database containing data for at least one medical condition having dynamic internal views and external views of organs and systems relevant to the medical condition and data for at least one patient profile.

The comments regarding the disclosure of feedback in Eggert given above with respect to claims 1 and 15 also apply to claim 10, as it appears the Examiner cites the same column and

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lines of Eggert (column 2, line 55 to column 3, line 5), with respect to dynamic internal views of organs.

The reference does not show an instructional database containing data for at least one medical condition having dynamic internal views and external views of organs and systems relevant to the medical condition and data for at least one patient profile, as recited in claim 10 of the instant application. The Eggert reference discloses a system for sensing an interaction between the virtual instrument and the simulator, and means for providing feedback to the user regarding the interaction between the virtual instrument and the simulator. Eggert does not disclose providing dynamic internal views of organs. This is contrary to the invention of the instant application as claimed, in which an instructional database contains data for at least one medical condition having dynamic internal views and external views of organs and systems relevant to the medical condition and data for at least one patient profile.

Since claim 10 is believed to be allowable over Eggert, dependent claims 11-14 are believed to be allowable over Eggert as well.

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It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 1, 10, or 15. Claims 1, 10, and 15 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claims 1, 10, or 15, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 and 3-20 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel respectfully requests a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

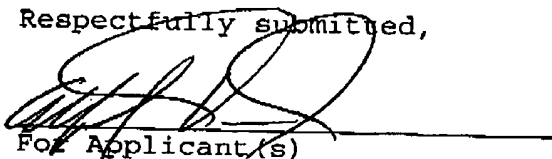
If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Petition for extension is herewith made. The extension fee for response within a period of two month pursuant to Section 1.136(a) in the amount of \$225 in accordance with Section 1.17 is enclosed herewith.

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Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect
to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner
Greenberg Sterner LLP, No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,


For Applicant(s)

AKD:cgm

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